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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 7, 2003, at 2 pm.

Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003

The Senate met at 10:15 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Before the Congress of the United States leaves to celebrate Independence Day, we pause to pray to You, Lord God, for the repose of the soul of Senator Strom Thurmond. Lord, reward this most senior statesman for his many years of pledged service to this country.

As the Source of life and justice that will last forever, You have inspired the Founders of this Nation, individuals such as Senator Thurmond and citizens across this land, to continually seek what is right: to pursue lasting values for themselves and for all their brothers and sisters; and to pray always that they may grow in virtue and so strengthen this democracy.

Our national celebration this year is an occasion for us to thank and praise You for this form of government, for its leaders and for the natural and human resources with which You continue to endow this great Nation.

May we also take this moment to pray for the new Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Chaplain Barry Black. Guide him by Your holy inspiration to ably respond to the needs of the Senators and this community. Gift him with the spirit of wisdom and prayer. And may

he always find joy in serving You by serving in this august chamber. You, Lord God are America's boast now and forever! Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as Senator from Alaska, I note there is no quorum. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will begin a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF STROM THURMOND

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes at this time to express my sympathy to the family of Senator Strom Thurmond, one of America's most dynamic leaders in this past century, a man who lived through extraordinary change in his life, a man whose commitment to his country was unwavering.

I had the opportunity in 1997 to travel with him to China. He was 94, I believe, at that time. His vigor and his strength were extraordinarily impressive to me and all of us who traveled with him. He wanted to see The Wall. He wanted to meet the people of China. He would tell them: America and China are friends. We want to be better friends. He made very perceptive and appropriate remarks.

Then we met Jiang Zemin at his resort in the month of their vacation time and Strom made an extraordinary speech that reflected so well America and had so comprehensive an understanding of the relationships of our countries. That just struck me particularly.

We went out to a Chinese army base. He trooped the line of a group of Chinese troops. I remember saying to him afterwards that I never thought I would be in Communist China, seeing Strom Thurmond, the great cold warrior, troop the line of a group of Chinese troops. But he was extraordinary in that way.

I had come up to this Senate in the mid-1980s as a nominee and it wasn't a very pleasant experience. I will never forget and will always appreciate his

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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